

Continued from
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10 SEP 1968

TS-198068

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. W. W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security

SUBJECT : Intelligence Contingency Planning for the
Vietnam Theater

REFERENCES : a. Memo to SecDef and DCI, same subject,
dated 7 August 1968

b.

c.

d.

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1. Action on your memorandum of 7 August (Ref. a.) has been assigned to the Critical Collection Problems Committee of the USIB, as you will have noted from the DDCI memorandum of assignment of 16 August, which was forwarded to you. Action within the DOD has been assigned to the DIA which is represented on this Committee. The CCPC has had considerable experience involving studies which take into consideration all modes of intelligence collection. Additionally, the SIGINT Committee and the COMIREX are providing support to the CCPC with regard to their areas of specialty.

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2. Progress on the development of the coordinated plan to date is:

a. An outline for the plan has been developed and assignments made for the initial inputs.

b. A statement of intelligence collection requirements directed at the circumstances which would likely exist under a total bombing halt or cease fire has been drafted. These requirements are currently being coordinated with the theater by DIA to ensure that all factors deemed pertinent to the local situation are included.

c. Initial inputs on resource capability and availability are in process of preparation by the responsible agencies.

d. Attention is being given to sensors which are in an advanced state of development and to the possible procurement of new systems that could improve our collection capability against the defined targets in the near term. Appropriate contact has been established with all elements of the community involved, including DDR&E.

3. The coordinated plan will take into consideration the impact on overall intelligence needs of a total halt in the bombing of North Vietnam and of a negotiated cease fire (Ref. b.).

a. Under conditions of the postulated bombing halt the required reconnaissance coverage of the area of enemy activity in Southeast Asia will be addressed with particular attention being given to the DMZ and north to the 20th parallel. The USIB has recently approved a statement of requirements for photo coverage under conditions of a bombing halt (Refs c. and d.). The requirement for other intelligence coverage under these circumstances is not expected to differ greatly from that which now pertains, although special attention will undoubtedly be required to detect and validate enemy responses to a cessation of bombing.

b. Conditions which will probably exist under a negotiated cease fire, including the loss of many sources directly associated

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with active combat, will call for the closest attention to the effective employment of all of our intelligence resources during the early stages of such an arrangement and particularly during any prescribed enemy withdrawal phase. It is therefore highly important that there be the very minimum of constraints on the application of these resources where needed. The plan is being developed on the basis of our being able to employ the resources available.

VSA Richard Helms

**Richard Helms
Director**

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